

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
March 31, 2003 7:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Brian C. Warburton, Chairman, Virginia Bridle,  
William Sullivan, James A. Workman, Cliff Pratt  
James S. Barrington, Town Manager  
Karen Anderson, Administrative Assistant

**I. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

The Pledge was led by Fred Rice.

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

The Board of Selectmen expressed their continued support of the U.S. troops.

Welcome Spring

The teachers and students at the Hampton Academy Junior High together with the HCC and the Recreation Department will be hosting a "Welcome Spring" presentation for the Hampton Seniors on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Drama Presentation

The musical "Grease" will be presented at WHS April 4<sup>th</sup> through April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Food Pantries

Mrs. Bridle reminded the public that all of the local food pantries are all very low. The "God's Baby Closet" at the Congregational Church is also in need of baby supplies to assist residents.

Military Aid

Mr. Warburton told the public that the local scouting organizations will be holding a collection day on April 12<sup>th</sup> to collect all kinds of supplies to be sent overseas to support the military men and women.

Environmental Camp

Mr. Warburton thanked all of the teachers, parents and chaperones for their efforts with Environmental Camp which all of the Grade 6 students enjoyed this past week. He noted that this is a wonderful program that the students benefit from.

**III. APPOINTMENTS**

1. Mr. Fred Rice, Re: Cable Committee

Mr. Rice emphasized that the Cable Committee is a group of volunteers that work very hard and their dedication is excellent; they have been voted the Citizens of the Year by the Rotary. Mr. Rice said that if all town volunteers worked as hard as they do, the town would be better off. He said that he is not at this meeting to criticize the people, but he is criticizing the system the town has and the town for not providing training for the volunteers. Mr. Rice told the Board that he is qualified to critique this because he graduated from two different video production schools and has had ample experience in filming. He understands what the volunteers are going through and at the same time knows what the viewing public is going through.

Mr. Rice said that one of his concerns is that it can take up to 30 seconds or more for the camera or microphone to catch up to someone that has started talking during a meeting. He said that is a result of the operators not knowing how to do the work. He added that a couple of meetings ago, when elected officials were being sworn in, it was done off the microphones and that could be because the town has the wrong type of microphones for this type of set-up. A lot of times there are graphics that come up to identify the meeting and occasionally the spelling is not correct. Mr. Rice said that there are not enough volunteers to broadcast the number of meetings that are held in the town.

Mr. Rice made four suggestions; he urged the Board of Selectmen to vote to allow the Town Manager to hire a permanent full-time cable director to broadcast all of the meetings and run the full system between the hours of 1:00 PM and 9:00 PM; to make the Cable Advisory Committee a true advisory committee to the Board of Selectmen to help the Board of Selectmen come up with policies and procedures; invest money in improving the set by darkening the backgrounds and replacing the picture behind the chairman with a town seal; and expanding the use of Channel 22 to broadcast information sessions about what the town departments do.

Mr. Sullivan said that he is opposed to hiring any permanent employee at this juncture. He noted that Mr. Jett has been the technician that has been taking care of the equipment for several years and runs his own business at the same time. He can only be depended on to do just so much. Mr. Sullivan said that the Town of Seabrook has hired a private company to run their access channel, but he does not know what the cost associated with that is. Mrs. Bridle said that she agreed that a full-time person should not be hired at this time because she did not know where the funding would come from. Mrs. Bridle said that the other suggestions Mr. Rice made should go to the Cable Committee for their input because they have been dedicating eight years to this channel. Mrs. Bridle also said that the people watching channel 22 should be focusing on what is being discussed, not as much on the aesthetics of the meeting room. Mr. Pratt said that he does not understand why the audio is so poor at times, and asked if it is a problem with the microphones. Mr. Barrington said that Mr. Jett has talked to him about the audio, which is a prime concern of the committee as well, and the problem is not uniform throughout the town. Mr. Barrington explained that the signal leaving the building is a good signal and some homes are getting better audio than others. One of the reasons could be that a mono signal is broadcast and some televisions are set to receive a stereo signal. Mr. Jett has suggested that residents who may not be getting good audio reception switch their set to mono for those broadcasts.

Mr. Pratt asked if there are microphones that can stay on at all times. Mr. Barrington said that depends on how large the group is, as you expand the number of mics that are on there is feedback. Mr. Pratt asked how much money is in the cable revenue fund. Mr. Sullivan said that the balance is around \$50,000. Mr. Barrington said that it comes from a percentage of the cable franchise fee and he will provide the Board with the exact amount. Mr. Pratt asked if the funds are earmarked for specific purposes. Mr. Sullivan said that when the committee needs funding they come to the Board of Selectmen for permission to spend out of that account. Mr. Workman said that it has been used for stipends, equipment, a scholarship and other related expenses.

At this time there was talking in the audience; Mr. Warburton reminded the audience that the meetings will be run professionally, people at home want to hear what is being said and he hopes he does not have to have people in the audience removed.

Mr. Pratt asked if the audio can be fixed in some way. Mr. Warburton said that the number of microphones that are on should not have a role in the quality of audio and he thinks some of the problems may be related to the wires on the floor. Mr. Warburton said that he has Comcast with the digital boxes and most of the time he can't hear half of the Zoning Board of Adjustment or Planning Board members and during the March 18<sup>th</sup> Budget Committee meeting he couldn't hear half of those members. Mr. Warburton said that he would like the Board to take some steps to improve the quality of the channel.

Mr. Rice said that the problem with the sound is not with feedback, he believes the problem is with the technicians keeping up with who is speaking. He admitted that it is difficult for the technicians to see who is speaking from the camera room, and suggested that expanding the size of the viewing window may be appropriate. Mr. Rice said that before every meeting a volunteer has to test all of the mics and re-arrange the wires for the specific microphones and he suggested that the mics be permanently wired in the room. Mr. Rice said that if the Board of Selectmen does not want to hire someone permanently, they should at least spend some money to professionally train the volunteers that the town has. Mr. Rice said that he is not knocking the volunteers; the system does not allow them to do the things they would like to do.

Mr. Warburton asked if the Board wanted some of the ideas Mr. Rice has suggested referred to the Cable Committee. Mr. Pratt said he would like to have the Cable Committee see if they can solve the audio problem. Mr. Sullivan said that the audio problem may be able to be solved easier than people think, and he will recommend that the committee call a meeting to discuss this. Mr. Pratt said that he would not be opposed to using some of the money for training the volunteers.

Mrs. Woolsey approached the Board and stated that since she complied with the request for an appointment and was denied, she wanted to know why the request was denied. She asked if there was a different format to follow and why the public was being denied access to public officials. Mr. Warburton said that he was not going to discuss that with her at this time and would be happy to talk to her at another time. Mr. Warburton said that Mrs. Woolsey was given the information that she did not have an appointment. Mrs. Woolsey stated that Mr. Warburton passed the buck to the Town Manager. Mrs. Woolsey stated that they all answer to the public. Mr. Warburton said that the Board was not there to listen to a lecture from her.

Mr. Warburton asked Mrs. Woolsey to please leave the room, stating that she has been talking since she got here. Mr. Warburton adjourned the meeting until the room was cleared. (7:34 PM)

At 7:54 PM the meeting was re-opened and Mr. Warburton apologized to the public for the appalling things that just took place. He stated that he has never seen another board chairman disrupt another board's meeting. Mr. Warburton said that he will be filing papers and seeking legal advice regarding this and believes that Mrs. Woolsey should be removed as Chairman of the Budget Committee, adding that he is not surprised she is up to her tricks. Mr. Warburton stated that the Hampton Police were called and she would have been removed if she had not left. Mr. Warburton stated that she will not, nor will anyone on the Budget Committee have an appointment with this Board unless she is removed as chairman this year.

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

##### Town Manager's Report

Mr. Barrington reported that the Board has received a letter from Nancy Stiles asking if any of the Selectmen or other town officials might like to participate in the school's guest chef program on Friday, May 16. Mr. Warburton expressed interest in this and asked that the time be confirmed.

##### Assessment Certification

Mr. Barrington told the Board that there is a letter in their packets from Mary Jane Souther, a Tax Review Appraiser from the Department of Revenue Administration confirming the meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup> she will have with Mr. Estey. This is the meeting that Mr. Estey has asked if the Chairman or one of the Selectmen could be present. Mr. Warburton stated that he will attend.

##### Campbell Property

Recreation & Parks Director Dyana Lassonde has reported that there is a semi-pro football team that is interested in building a football field on the Campbell property. Mr. Barrington said if the Board of Selectmen is interested in having the town pursue that idea further, a proposal can be put together for use of the field and a contract written to protect the Town's interests in the property.

##### Winnacunnet Road/Park Avenue Intersection

Mr. Barrington reported that the sign at the Winnacunnet and Park Avenue traffic island was placed there by the Recreation Department as a project that the students at HAJH did in conjunction with the Recreation and Parks Department. The name "Liberty Garden" was part of a national campaign through "America the Beautiful" program in the aftermath of 9/11. This is not an adopt a spot. If the Board wants the sign removed, it will be taken down next week.

##### Request for use of Town Land by James House

Mr. Barrington reported that Ms. Lassonde has brought in a request from Glenn Randall, of the Starks New

Hampshire Men and Drake's Artillery to use Town land near the James House for "marching and military drilling". Mr. Barrington said that he understands that they are Revolutionary War re-enactors that they will be firing muskets and field artillery. They have indicated that the noise will be on the scale of fireworks. They also note that the James House organization is in favor of the operation. The group is requesting to use the property on Saturday, April 26, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. They have also enclosed a copy of their certificate of insurance. Mr. Barrington said that although the idea sounds like a fun and unique program, the noise and smoke potential lead him to consider the reaction of the neighbors. Mr. Randall was present to answer any questions.

#### Exeter Road RR Bridge

Mr. Barrington told the Board that he met on Thursday morning with CLD Consulting and a representative of Guilford Rail to discuss coordination of the engineering study of the Exeter Road RR Bridge. There was a representative of Verizon present as well. He said that the public should expect to see some activity in that area in the near future as the study commences.

#### Impact Fee Study

On Thursday afternoon, the Manager and others met with Bruce Mayberry on the Impact Fee study. The discussion broadened to include TIF (Tax Increment Financing) districts. Mr. Mayberry will be doing some research on that subject as soon as he completes his work on the school portion of the Impact Fee study. Mr. Barrington told the Board that on Friday morning, he received an e-mail from Dan Gray with the Seacoast Business Alliance offering that he might be able to help us with funding and research for setting up a TIF district.

#### Bonair Project

The Town received the wetlands permit for the Bonair project this week. It has a 30-day review period for the Corps of Engineers. Mr. Barrington told the Board that he sent a note of thanks to Representative Sheila Francoeur for her assistance with the DES.

#### Beach Infrastructure Upgrades

Mr. Barrington said that he has been involving the State in the early discussions of the beach infrastructure upgrades. They were an active participant in the Master Plan and the town appreciates their interest in this. Public Works Director John Hangen and the Town Manager met with representatives from Severino Trucking, Park Construction, and Audley this week. Mr. Barrington said that there was also a meeting with the utility representatives (except for Comcast) on Wednesday. Finance Director Dawna Duhamel has received and begun her review of arbitrage regulations.

#### Kings Highway sewer extension,

The Town Manager told the Board that Mr. Mellin is working on SRF funding for the Kings Highway sewer extension project. This is the first step and the RFP for engineering services will be sent out as soon as the funding is secured.

#### Police Station

Mr. Barrington reported that he expects to see the 90% draft of the biddable documents next week so Attorney Gearreald can begin his review while the Town awaits wetlands approval. The Conservation Commission has held a meeting in regard to the Site Specific plan and he has not seen the results from that.

#### Cave Building

Recreation and Parks Director Dyana Lassonde reports that there is an architect who is associated with the Little Warriors program who has volunteered his work for the design of the cave building. She is going to be working with him following meetings with HYA and Little Warriors on their space needs. There is also an indication that the demolition may be accomplished by volunteer labor.

#### Eel Ditch engineering.

This project is on hold until July.

Mr. Pratt said that he thought the Recreation Department should look into the semi-pro football team, as it could bring some revenue into the town.

Mr. Pratt pointed out that the insurance policy for the militia group expires this month and a renewal should be provided, but other than that he was in favor of allowing the use of the land for that purpose.

Mr. Pratt said that he is in favor of leaving up the Liberty Garden sign.

Mrs. Bridle said that the Campbell Property was approved for recreation and conservation, and while the abutters had some concerns with the development of the property with septic systems, she thought football could be a good use. She added that she was also in favor of the militia use, as long as it is well advertised due to the number of ATV vehicles that frequent the area.

Mr. Sullivan said that he was in favor of the football field at the Campbell property as long as it does not take one minute of the Town Manager's time; the Recreation Director needs to handle this. Mr. Sullivan was also in favor of the militia group.

Mr. Workman said that he is in favor of exploring the use of the Campbell property and is in agreement that it should not take any of the Town Manager's time. He is also in favor of the militia event as long as there are no concerns raised by the neighbors.

Mr. Warburton said that he is in favor of the semi-pro football team making the football field, leaving the Liberty Garden sign in place and the militia event. Mr. Barrington said that if a football field is put in there it will provide organized use of the land and eliminate the disorganized use that is taking place.

#### Hampton Beach Circulation Study

Mr. Warburton said that the circulation study is something very important to the Beach Master Plan. Mr. Barrington said that this was discussed last year and was delayed so far into the season that it was no longer going to be meaningful. With the implementation of the Master Plan it is timely to look at the circulation of the traffic at the beach because one of the suggestions in the Master Plan had to do with changing the direction of traffic. It would be appropriate to have the study completed before the road construction is underway. Mr. Workman said that things are starting to move forward and it is imperative to get this going, the funding was approved on a special warrant article last year.

### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

#### Appointments to Boards and Committees

##### Conservation Commission

Mr. Warburton read the letters from Mrs. Marcotte and Mrs. Olney requesting that they not be re-appointed to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Warburton said that Mrs. Marcotte has served for more than 12 years and her efforts have been outstanding.

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen send a letter of appreciation to Mrs. Marcotte for her service on the Conservation Commission.

**Mrs. Bridle SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** that Greg Smart and Heather Day be appointed as regular members of the Conservation Commission for three year terms and that Mr. Jay Diener be appointed as an alternate member for a three year term.

**Mrs. Bridle SECONDED**

Mr. Sullivan said that Mrs. Marcotte worked very hard for the commission and her dedication will be missed.

Leased Land Real Estate Commission

**Mr. Pratt MOTIONED** that John Woodburn be re-appointed to a three year term on the Leased Land Real Estate Commission.

**Mr. Workman SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

Shade Tree Commission

**Mrs. Bridle MOTIONED** that Marilyn Wallingford be reappointed to the Shade Tree Commission for a three year term.

**Mr. Sullivan SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

Cable Advisory Committee

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** that John Donaldson, Bob Moynihan and Joe Bouchard be re-appointed to the Cable Advisory Committee for three year terms.

**Mrs. Bridle SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

Heritage Commission

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** that Elizabeth Aykroyd and Fred Rice be appointed to the Heritage Commission for three year terms.

**Mr. Workman SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

Mosquito Control Commission

There is a vacancy on this commission at this time.

Recreation & Parks Advisory Council

**Mr. Pratt MOTIONED** that Darold Mosher and Jerry McConnell be re-appointed to the Recreation Advisory Council for three year terms.

**Mr. Workman SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**Mr. Pratt MOTIONED** that William Morrissey be re-appointed to the Recreation Advisory Council as the HYA Representative for a one year term.

**Mr. Workman SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**Mr. Pratt MOTIONED** that Sheila Cragg be appointed to the Recreation Advisory Council for a two year term.

**Mr. Workman SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**Mr. Pratt MOTIONED** that Kim Warburton be appointed to the Recreation Advisory Council for a three year term.

**Mr. Workman SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

Highway Safety Committee

**Mrs. Bridle MOTIONED** that Fred Palazzolo be re-appointed to the Highway Safety Committee for a three year term.

**Mr. Pratt SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

Insurance Review Committee

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** that John Tortorice and William Hayes be reappointed to the Insurance Review Committee for one year terms.

**Mr. Workman SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

Parking Lot Ordinance

Mr. Barrington outlined proposed changes to the snow emergency ordinance to include municipal parking lots, which would allow the High Street parking lot to be cleared when snow needs to be removed. He explained that the High Street lot prohibits parking in the lot from 9 PM to 6 AM except for the row



designated as all day/overnight. A sentence is being suggested in that section to require that the all day/overnight row be cleared from 9 PM to Midnight when a snow emergency is declared. Mr. Barrington said that he believes this addresses the bulk of the concerns that have been raised. Mr. Sullivan said that this does not address the parking problem except during the snowstorms. Mr. Barrington said that by doing this the snow can be pushed further into the northeast corner, thereby reducing the number of spaces that are lost as a result of snow piles. Mr. Barrington added that by requiring the cars to be moved during a snow emergency will prevent the parking of vehicles for extended periods of time, thus freeing up additional spaces. Mr. Sullivan asked if the snow emergency ordinance could also be applied to private streets to allow plowing of them for public safety purposes. Mr. Barrington will have Attorney Gearreald research that.

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen hold a public hearing on April 14<sup>th</sup> for public comments on the proposed amendments to the parking regulations.

**Mrs. Bridle SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

Mrs. Bridle said that the adjacent landlords and business owners should be notified. Mr. Sullivan asked that the Board of Selectmen be told next week if private roads can be included.

Mr. Workman asked that the list of posted roads be shown on channel 22.

#### Yard Sales

Mr. Warburton noted that the Board received a letter from Mr. Hamilton of 10 Sanborn Road requesting that the Board prohibit yard sales on Memorial Day weekend due to the traffic impact. Mr. Warburton said that he thinks this could create a problem for the police department. The Board agreed to discuss this under Old Business next week

#### Rockingham Planning Commission

**Mr. Pratt MOTIONED** that the following people be re-appointed as commissioners to the Rockingham Planning Commission for Hampton: Warren Bambury for a three-year term, Gerry Ridzon for a two-year term and Peter Olney for a four-year term.

**Mr. Workman SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

#### School Board Meetings

Mr. Warburton said that he spoke with Mr. Stiles from the Hampton School Board about their use of the Selectmen's Meeting Room for their meetings. The third Monday in July would be amenable for them to try this, but he will be confirming that with his board. Mr. Stiles indicated that he is also looking at an alternate meeting night. Mr. Warburton will keep the Board informed on this.

### **VI. MINUTES**

The minutes of March 24, 2003 were reviewed with the following changes made.

Page 1: correct spelling of "Allen".

### **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Richard Reniere, 29 Highland Avenue asked if it was the intention of the Board to forward Mr. Rice's comments to the Cable Committee. Mr. Reniere said that he watches some of the meetings broadcast from this room, and one of the problems he notes is the visual problem when the easel is used. He suggested that something be done to make the easel easier to focus on by the camera. Mr. Workman said that the developer is often playing to two audiences and the easel gets moved around. Mr. Pratt said that it may be appropriate to have the developer bring a second set of plans.

Mr. Dean Ellis, 91 Winnacunnet Road noted that when he was just watching the meeting from home someone talked from the back of the room and he could not hear that speaker. Mr. Ellis said that there was an highway safety emergency he wanted to bring to the Boards attention. Mr. Warburton directed Mr. Ellis

to speak with the Town Manager on Tuesday about that. Mr. Ellis also said that there is an opening on the Highway Safety Committee because a member was not sworn in and since he served the committee from 1999 to 2002 and has experience with the Highway Safety Committee in Derry he would like to be appointed again. Mr. Warburton asked Mr. Barrington to have Judy Park review the current appointments to verify if there is a vacancy.

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen meet in a non-public session at the conclusion of the public session under RA 91-A:3 II (c) for a personnel matter.

**Mr. Workman SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** that the meeting be adjourned. (8:49 PM)

**Mr. Workman SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

---

Chairman